Appl. No.:   09/981,202
Amdt. dated April 26, 2004
Reply to Office action of February 9, 2004

Amendments to the Claims: ·

      This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Canceled).

2.   (Currently amended) The computer system of claim ~~1~~ 4 wherein said option ROM code is resident on said option device.

3.   (Original) The computer system of claim 2 wherein said option ROM code is copied to and executed from system memory.

4.   (Currently amended) ~~The computer system of claim 1~~ A computer system, comprising:

     a CPU;

     system memory coupled to said CPU;

     a system ROM containing system ROM code executable by said CPU;

     an option device coupled to said CPU; and

     option ROM code associated with said option device;

     wherein said system ROM code permits an operator to execute said option ROM code and wherein said system ROM code searches for a predefined signature value when an operator selects an option ROM code to execute, said signature value identifies information pertaining to the location of the ~~system~~ option ROM code.

5.   (Original) The computer system of claim 4 wherein said signature corresponds to an option ROM configuration entry table, said table includes location values regarding the location of the option ROM code and a device identifier value.

6.   (Original) The computer system of claim 5 wherein said table further includes a mask value that permits multiple types of option devices to use the option ROM code pertaining to a single table.

7.   (Canceled).

8.   (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 7~~ A method of configuring a computer system, comprising:

      configuring one or more aspects of a computer system using system ROM code;

      permitting an operator to select an option device coupled to said computer system to be configured using said system ROM code; and

      searching for an option ROM code associated with said option device using said system ROM code; and

      executing said option ROM code;

      wherein searching for an option ROM code ~~(c)~~ includes searching for a predefined value that indicates the location of a set of information, said set of information includes a location value that is used to determine the location of the option ROM code.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said set of information also includes a device identifier and wherein searching for an option ROM code ~~(c)~~ further includes comparing a device identifier associated with the option device the operator wishes to configure to the device identifier in the set of information.

10.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein ~~(d)~~ executing said option ROM includes transferring execution to said location if the device identifiers match ~~in (c)~~.

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11.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 7-8 further including returning
to said system ROM code after said option ROM code completes executing.

12.   (Canceled).

13.   (Currently amended) The system ROM of claim 12-16 further including an
instruction which causes an option ROM code associated with an option device to
be executed.

14.   (Original) The system ROM of claim 13 wherein said option ROM code is
resident on said option device.

15.   (Original) The system ROM of claim 14 wherein said option ROM code is
copied to and executed from RAM memory in said computer system.

16.   (Currently amended) The system ROM of claim 12 A system ROM
including computer executable system ROM code that includes instructions which
comprise:
        an instruction that permits an operator to configure a computer system;
and
        an instruction that permits an operator to configure one or more option
                devices within the computer system and to wherein the instruction
                in (b) searches search for an option ROM configuration table
                corresponding to the option device the operator selects to
                configure.

17.   (Original) The system ROM of claim 16 wherein said table includes offset
and segment values to the beginning of an option ROM code associated with said
option device.

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18.   (Original) The system ROM of claim 17 wherein said table further includes a device identifier which corresponds to said option device.

19.   (Original) The system ROM of claim 18 further including an instruction which compares a device identifier obtained from the operator's selection of a device to be configured to the device identifier in said table.